IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 16-29 with the following paragraph:

A "conditionally inducible element" is an element of the expression vector that confers positive regulation on transcription of a downstream expressed region under inducing conditions. It may be obtained from enhancer regions that are also conditionally inducible, but constitutively active enhancers that increase basal transcription under most or all conditions are not preferred sources for conditionally inducible elements. Removal of a conditionally inducible element from an expression vector would be expected to decrease expression of a downstream region under inducing conditions. As described above, it may be present at least one, two, three, four, five, six or more times as a homomultimer (i.e., repeats of the same conditionally inducible element) or a heteromultimer (i.e. a mixture of different conditionally inducible elements or variations thereof). Conditionally inducible elements (e.g., consensus sequences known in the art) are usually between about 4 and 100 nucleotides in length. The conditionally inducible element may or may not be active in most cells, but under non-inducing conditions, the latter situation is preferred. Examples of conditionally inducible elements include the hypoxia response enhancer (HRE) element, to which hypoxia inducible factor-1 (HIF-1) binds; HRE elements to which HIF-1α does not bind, for example, the metallothionein I (MT-I) and metallothionein II (MT-II) elements bound by metallothionein transcription factor-1 (MTF-1); metal response elements; heat response elements; hormone response elements; NF-κB response elements; and growth factor response elements.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 28-41 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13 and 16-23 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated expression vector comprised of (a) one or more silencer elements and one or more conditionally inducible elements to form a silencer-inducible region, and (b) a promoter in operative linkage with at least one silencer-inducible region, wherein said promoter is thereby regulated by said at least one silencer-inducible region, and said promoter is upstream of at least one nucleotide sequence; said expression vector under an inducing condition expressing said at least one nucleotide